

Report to Full Town Council 03.02.2022

St Stephens Church, Six Firefighters graves.

Councillors a former Saltash firefighter and family member of one of the six firefighters have been working tirelessly to mark the graves of the six firefighters which are marked at St Stephens Church Saltash.

Mr Mike Parker and Mr Neil Stanlake are requesting Saltash Town Councils blessing on their future project.

At this stage there will be no financial implication to the residents of Saltash nor to the Town Council.

Plans for the project:

Install four new inscribed flat marble stones on the graves and two at the request of the family will remain as they are today.

Encircle the site of all the six graves with grey coloured edging stones and at the same time, identify each individual grave with the same edging stones down the middle. This we believe, would retain a degree of individuality of the six men, but also create inclusiveness, bearing in mind the six of them were all Saltash lads, went to school together, were close pals, were fire fighters together, died together and now rest in peace together.

This edging will enhance the look of the gravel but also reduce the grass cutting. The site surface will be filled with attractive Cornish granite stones which would be in keeping with the edging stones.

Install a story board adjacent to the graves, telling the story of the tragic event in 1941, which would be protected by a Perspex cover and erected at an agreed height and on a single pole, which would also reduce maintenance.

Father Michael Brown, the Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service Chaplain, has been made aware of our proposed plan and he has given it his full approval, after expressing his sadness at the state of the graves when holding a service at St Stephens Church, back in April of last year.

Councillors this is part of Saltash History, and we would like your blessing to see this project come to fortition.

Both Mr Mike Parker and Mr Neil Stanlake will be attending the Full Council Meeting to present their proposed plans and will be present to answer any questions.

